


The Annual Report
FOR **1913** OF THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
OF
TAUNTON.

BY
HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond., F.I.C., &c.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Taunton:
E. GOODMAN AND SON, THE PHŒNIX PRESS, NORTH STREET.
1914.



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TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1913

Population of District (Census 1911)	..	..	17,834
Population of District (estimated to the middle of 1913)	..	..	17,886
Area in Statute Acres	..	..	4,079
Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population	..	..	17·2
Death-rate per 1,000 of Population	..	..	14·8
Zymotic Death-rate	..	..	0·6
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births	..	..	62·5

To the Taunton Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report of the Health of the Taunton Rural District for the year 1913.

I. Mortality in 1913.

The total Deaths in the District were 265, or at the rate of 14·8 per 1,000 of the population.

This is the gross Death-rate, all non-residents dying in the District and those residents dying out of the District must be taken into consideration in arriving at the nett Death-rate.

58 non-residents died in Cotford Asylum, and 4 in the Isolation Hospital.

If these are deducted the number of Deaths is reduced to 203.

But 9 residents died in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and 6 in the Union Workhouse, both situated in the Borough of Taunton.

These being added makes the total number 218, or a nett Death-rate of 12·4 per 1,000.

(a) LOCALITIES.

The Deaths occurred in the following Districts :—

1. Pitminster District	..	..	..	..	54
2. North Curry District	..	..	..	..	72
3. Taunton (Without) District	..	..	..	..	21
4. Bishop's Lydeard District	..	..	..	..	50
5. Cotford Asylum	..	..	..	..	62
6. Isolation Hospital	..	..	..	..	6
Total					265

(b) SEXES.

Of these 265, 128 were Males and 137 Females.

(c) AGES AT DEATH.

The various ages at which Death occurred, in accordance with the Classification of the Local Government Board, were as follows :

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	20
1 to 2 years	..	..	..	..	..	3
2 to 5 „	..	..	..	..	..	7
5 to 15 „	..	..	..	..	..	5
15 to 25 „	..	..	..	..	..	6
25 to 45 „	..	..	..	..	..	34
45 to 65 „	..	..	..	..	..	65
65 years and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	125
Total						265

(d) DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

68 of the 265 Deaths occurred in Public Institutions, as shown below :—

I. COTFORD ASYLUM.

Cases from Taunton Rural District	..	..	4
„ Taunton Borough	..	..	6
„ Without both Districts	..	..	52
<hr/>			
Total	..	..	62

2. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Cases from Taunton Rural District	..	..	2
„ Taunton Borough	..	..	4
<hr/>			
Total	..	..	6

II. Causes of Death.

(a) ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Of these Diseases there were only 12 Deaths, 3 from Measles, 3 from Whooping Cough, and 6 from Diphtheria, in the Isolation Hospital, of which 4 were cases from Taunton Borough.

The Zymotic Death-rate is therefore 0·6 per 1,000.

(b) DEATHS FROM OTHER CAUSES.

The chief causes of other Deaths were as follows :—

Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	20
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	13
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	12
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	10
Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	3
Premature Births	..	..	..	..	..	8
Violent Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	6
Suicides	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bright's Disease	..	..	..	..	..	3
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	2

III. Births in 1913.

The total number of Births in the District during 1913 were 318, or at the rate of 17·2 per 1,000 of the population.

The numbers in the various Districts were as follows :—

1. Pitminster District	..	..	..	..	64
2. North Curry District	..	..	..	..	136
3. Taunton (Without) District	..	..	..	..	44
4. Bishop's Lydeard District	..	..	..	..	74
Total					— 318

8 of these Births were illegitimate.

IV. Infantile Mortality.

The Infantile Death-rate for the year, or the number of Infants under one year of age dying per 1,000 Births, is 62·5.

This is below that of the preceding year, which was 79·4 per 1,000 Births.

V. Sickness during 1913.

I. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

I received 60 Notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year.

They were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	4 cases
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	12 „
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	7 „
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	5 „
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	29 „
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	1 „
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	2 „

Of these 60 cases, 14 were removed to the Isolation Hospital—4 of Scarlet Fever, 9 of Diphtheria, and 1 of Enteric Fever.

The Enteric Fever cases were all in Cotford Asylum.

Those of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were scattered about the District.

As regards the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, the largest number were in the North Curry District.

VI. Sanitary Work during 1913.

Your Inspector (Mr. Gardiner) informs me that he has made 3,672 inspections of houses, premises, &c., during the year.

This necessitated the issuing of 380 Notices for the removal and abatement of Nuisance.

15 only of these were Statutory Notices, the rest being informal.

349 Houses were repaired and limewashed.

18 Drains were tested, and 53 were repaired.

66 Closets were repaired and 28 new ones provided.

37 samples of water were taken for Analysis, and the great majority were found impure.

5 Houses were supplied with good water.

23 offensive accumulations of Manure, &c., were removed, and 4 animals were removed as being improperly kept.

DISINFECTION.

This has been carried out in all cases of Infectious Diseases.

In cases of Tuberculosis, disinfection is carried out after death or after the removal of the Patient.

As your Council possesses no Steam Disinfector, application was made to the Town Council for the use of their's. This was granted on the payment of 7/6 per time, the Rural Authority undertaking the carriage of the bedding, &c., to and from the Disinfector.

VII. Water Supply.

The supply to North Curry has not yet been carried out, but correspondence between the Local Government Board and your Council has taken place.

The difficulty of a supply to some houses at Bickenhall has been satisfactorily overcome, without in any way taxing the rate-payers.

The supply at Bishop's Lydeard has a tendency to run short, and greater economy is needed with use in the future than there has been in the past.

The Stoke St. Gregory and Hatch Beauchamp supplies continue to be satisfactory.

VIII. Housing, &c., Act, 1909.

I have with your Inspector continued my Inspection of the District under this Act.

The total number of Houses inspected was 534.

The number found to be unfit for human habitation was 62.

The number defective, but the defects of which were not sufficient to report as unfit for human habitation, was 348, and 124 had no recorded sanitary defects.

As in the previous year, your Council determined to proceed under the Public Health Act, 1875, before issuing Closing Orders.

62 Houses were so reported, but no Closing Orders were made.

43 were made fit for habitation without such orders.

8 Houses were voluntarily demolished, and 8 were closed at the end of the year, and 3 Houses are still on hand.

There were 10 cases of overcrowding during the year.

LICENSED SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The number of these remains the same—34.

They are periodically inspected and are in a satisfactory condition.

LICENSED COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

These have slightly increased in number. There are 138 this year as against 130 in the preceding one.

There is some improvement to be noted in the condition of some of them. New floors and drainage have been satisfactorily carried out in 8 cases.

There is, however, much still to be done.

BAKEHOUSES.

There is one more than in 1912, the number now being 24.

They are regularly visited and inspected and kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

There is no underground Bakehouse.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOME-WORK.

The number inspected during the year was as follows :—

4 Factories, 62 Workshops, and 10 Workplaces.

Only one sanitary defect was found, and that was remedied.

There were 232 Outworkers, and in 5 instances the premises were unwholesome, which necessitated notices being served.

No prosecution, however, was required, as the nuisances were abated.

24 Bakehouses, 39 Workshops, and 4 Workplaces make the total of 67 Registered Workshops.

As this will be my last Annual Report as your Medical Officer, I cannot help looking back at the state of the District in 1873 and comparing it with its condition in 1913.

The hovels used as dwellings, the foul water supply, the filthy middens and cesspits, and the amount of overcrowding, could hardly be credited in these days.

A great improvement has taken place during this period, but still a great deal remains to be accomplished.

The people themselves are becoming aware of what is required to render their homes more healthy, and I have been quite astonished in going through the District during the last 4 or 5 years to see the number of open windows. In fact, some of the poorer cottagers in this respect set a good example to some of their well-to-do neighbours.

For the sake of the children who are to form the coming generation, it is however to be hoped that sanitation will still proceed, and that better homes will be their lot.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
								Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Of Non- residents registered in the District. 7	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District. 8	Number. 9	Rate per 1,000 Births registered 10	Number. 11	Rate. 12
1	2	3	4	5	6						
1908	17,251	322	18·6	272	15·8	11	30	20	62·0	250	14·4
1909	17,210	329	19·1	262	15·2	82	25	21	63·0	205	11·9
1910	17,169	345	20·0	246	14·3	63	11	16	46·3	194	11·2
1911	17,834	318	17·8	287	15·0	85	13	14	44·0	215	12·0
1912	17,860	277	15·5	260	14·5	68	16	22	79·4	209	11·6
1913	17,886	318	17·2	265	14·8	62	15	20	62·5	218	12·4

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)...	71,720	Total population at all ages	17,834	At Census of 1911
		Number of inhabited houses ...	...	4,079
		Average Number of Persons per house	...	4	

TABLE II. TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Pitminster 1	North Curry 2	Taunton (without) 3	Bishop's Lydeard 4		
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65						65 and upwards
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous croup	12	2	6	2	2	2	...	...	1	6	5	...	...
Erysipelas	5	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	3	...	...
Scarlet fever	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	7	...	...	3	...	4	...	...	...	...	7	...	...
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	29	1	5	7	...	8	7	1	5	8	2	...	...
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonotorium	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Totals	60	3	3	12	17	9	9	1	9	17	15	19	...

(H) Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in Cheddon Road, in the District of Taunton (Without), provided by Taunton Urban and Rural Councils.

(W) The Workhouse is in the Taunton Urban District.

Total available Beds, 36.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4.

TABLE III.
TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
Causes of and Ages at Death during 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.									DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 & under 2	2 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 45	45 & under 65	65 & upwards	
Certified	218	20	1	6	1	7	30	54	99	68
Uncertified ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	3	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	6
Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis)	12	...	...	...	...	2	4	5	1	8
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other tuberculous diseases	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer, malignant disease	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	1
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	20	...	...	...	...	...	2	12	6	2
Bronchitis	14	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	12	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	13	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	8	15
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1
Puerperal fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents & diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth... ..	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	6	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	1	...
Suicide	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	111	8	...	1	...	3	16	21	62	24
Diseases ill-defined or Unknown ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	218	20	1	6	1	7	30	54	99	68

TABLE IV.

TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at Various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.					Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total under 1 Year.
Certified	...	...	...	...	12	...	1	...	13	2	3	1	1	20
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	7
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
					12	...	1	...	13	2	3	1	1	20

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate, 310; Illegitimate, 8.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

For the Year 1913,

FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF TAUNTON,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS
OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	4	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)	62	...	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report.)	10	...	...
Total	76	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	4	4	...	...
Want of ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	1	1	...	...
Sanitary {	insufficient ... ..	...	...	...
	unsuitable or de-	...	...	...
	accommo- fective ... ..	...	...	...
	fection not separate for	...	...	...
dation {	sexes ... ..	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101)...	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100).	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are in- cluded in Part 3 of this Report.)				
Total	5	5	...	...

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.										OUTWORK IN UN- WHOLESALE PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN IN- FECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.		
	Lists received from Employers.										Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (s. 110).	Prosecutions (sections 109, 110).
	Twice in the Year.		Once in the Year.		Lists. (5)	Con- tractors (6)	Work- men. (7)	Prosecutions.								
	Lists. (2)	Outworkers.		Fail- ing to keep or per- mit in- spec- tion of Lists. (9)				Fail- ing or sending Lists. (8)								
		Con- tractors (3)	Work- men. (4)													
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
Wearing } (1) Making, &c. ... Appare } (2) Cleaning & washing Household Linen ... Lace, lace curtains and nets ... Curtains and Furniture Hangings ... Furniture and Upholstery ... Electro Plate ... File making ... Brass and Brass Articles ... Fur pulling ... Cables and Chains ... Anchors and Grapnels ... Cart Gear ... Locks, Latches and Keys ... Umbrellas, &c. ... Artificial flowers ... Nets, other than wire nets ... Tents ... Sacks ... Racquet and Tennis Balls... Paper Bags and Boxes ... Brush making ... Pea picking ... Feather sorting ... Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ... Stuffed Toys ... Basket making ... Chocolates and Sweetmeats ...	12 4 ...															

TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.								Number.
(1)								(2)
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
	Workshops ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
	Work-places...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Total number of workshops on Register ...							67

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.								Number.
(1)								(2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—								
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act								
(s. 133) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5, 1901)					{ Notified by H.M. Inspector ...			...
					{ Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...			...
Other ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Certificates granted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
In use at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

February 10th, 1914.

HENRY J. ALFORD, M.D., LOND.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TAUNTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

Inspector of Nuisances' Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1913 (E. H. Gardiner).

Number of Complaints to Sanitary Officer						15
Inspections, Re-inspections, House to House, Premises, &c. ...						3,672
Results of Inspection.	Notices issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses, &c., Statutory					36
	Ditto Informal. Verbal, &c.					344
	Houses Repaired, Limewashed, &c.					349
	Drains Tested with Smoke Test					18
	Houses Disinfected after Infection					42
Drains (House)	Drains Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.					53
Privies and Closets.	Repaired					66
	New Provided					28
Water Supply.	Samples of Water taken					37
	Houses Supplied with Water					5
Miscellaneous.	Removal of Offensive Accumulations					23
	Animals Removed, being improperly kept					4
	Regularly Inspected	Bakehouses				24
		Licensed Cowsheds, Dairies, &c.				138
		Licensed Slaughter-Houses				34
	Overcrowding					10
	Houses unfit for Habitation					62
	Houses Voluntarily Closed					8
	Houses Demolished					8
	Houses made Fit					43
Houses still on hand					3	

REMARKS.—New Floors and Drainage to 8 Cowsheds have been satisfactorily carried out during the year.

TAUNTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1913,

BY

Dr. A. HARRISON THOMAS, B.Sc., M.B.

Committee :

ALDERMAN W. F. WHITTINGHAM, *Chairman.*

MR. F. S. ARNOLD

MR. R. BRUFORD

THE MAYOR (COUN. G. HINTON)

MR. JOHN KIDNER

ALDERMAN A. J. SPILLER

MR. J. SUMMERHAYES

MR. J. E. BEEL

MR. W. J. VILLAR

Clerk to the Committee : MR. W. F. B. DAWE.

Medical Superintendent : DR. A. HARRISON THOMAS, B.Sc., M.B.

Matron : Miss A. ROBERTS.

TAUNTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1913.

TAUNTON,

January, 1914.

To the Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1913.

CASES ADMITTED.

			Urban.	Rural.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	31	5	36
Diphtheria	..	..	59	6	65
Typhoid Fever	..	..	—	1	1
			—	—	—
Total	..	..	90	12	102

These 102 admissions consisted of :—

Males	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Females	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
							—
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	102

Their ages were :—

Under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	..	0
1 to 5 years	..	..	..	..	..	25
6 to 15 „	..	..	..	..	..	56
16 to 25 „	..	..	..	..	..	17
26 to 35 „	..	..	..	..	..	2
36 to 50 „	..	..	..	..	..	1
Over 50 years	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total						102

They were distributed over the various months as follows :—

January ..	..	..	..	..	..	7
February ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
March ..	..	..	..	..	..	9
April ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
May ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
June ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
July ..	..	..	..	..	..	13
August ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
September ..	..	..	..	..	..	7
October ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
November ..	..	..	..	..	..	30
December ..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Total						102

The 12 Rural Cases came from the following places :—

West Monkton..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bishop's Hull	..	..	..	..	..	5
Cotford ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Combe Florey ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cothelstone ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Seven Ash ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Galmington ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total						12

DEATHS.

From Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Total						6

NATURE OF THE CASES.

The outbreak of Diphtheria, which commenced last year, has continued throughout the present one, and whilst there was a large proportion of severe cases, accounting for the whole of the deaths, six in number, there were also admitted a number of patients who either were not affected with Diphtheria at all, or in whom it was so slight as to be hardly recognised as that disease, the clinical symptoms being so slight. These cases were eight in number, and after being detained until recovery, were able to be discharged as soon as a certificate of freedom from the Diphtheria Bacillus was obtained from the County Bacteriologist. Among those admitted as affected with Scarlet Fever, three of them proved to be free from that disease and were not detained more than a few days. The single case of Typhoid Fever was a remarkable example of an anomalous form of that disease, as none of the ordinary symptoms were present, the circulatory organs and the blood being alone affected.

THE STAFF.

There has been no change except the resignation of Miss Bartlett, who has been Matron for some years, and the appointment of Miss A. Roberts in her stead. I am pleased to report that the work of the Hospital on the part of the nursing staff and servants has been performed satisfactorily during the year.

CONDITION OF THE HOSPITAL.

Renovations and repairs have been done in the wards as required, and the stock kept in good condition.

Appended is a Table showing the number of cases admitted annually since the opening of the Hospital.

Your obedient Servant,

A. HARRISON THOMAS, M.B., B.Sc.,

Medical Superintendent.

Number of cases admitted since the opening of the Hospital:—

From July,	1879, to September,	1880	..	42
From October,	1880	„ 1881	..	19
„	1881	„ 1882	..	76
„	1882	„ 1883	..	64
„	1883	„ 1884	..	127
„	1884	„ 1885	..	205
„	1885	„ 1886	..	60
„	1886	„ 1887	..	93
„	1887	„ 1888	..	66
„	1888	„ 1889	..	25
„	1889	„ 1890	..	79
„	1890	„ 1891	..	70
„	1891 to December,	1892	..	44
	In the year	1893	..	182
	„	1894	..	176
	„	1895	..	69
	„	1896	..	65
	„	1897	..	78
	„	1898	..	41
	„	1899	..	54
	„	1900	..	66
	„	1901	..	40
	„	1902	..	144
	„	1903	..	87
	„	1904	..	291
	„	1905	..	109
	„	1906	..	74
	„	1907	..	51
	„	1908	..	73
	„	1909	..	55
	„	1910	..	76
	„	1911	..	76
	„	1912	..	87
	„	1913	..	102
		Total	..	<u>2,966</u>